AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the

application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (*Currently Amended*) A method of retrieving information from one or more

information sources in a search space, said method comprising:

providing central program code at a central computer; said central program code being

adapted for maintaining a central database of data records, for accessing the information from

said information sources, and for comparing said data records with said information from said

information sources;

recognizing communication between said central program code and remote program code

at at least one remote terminal; said remote program code being adapted for monitoring user

activity of at least one user, for collecting monitored data related to said user activity, and for

transmitting said monitored data to said central program code;

supplementing, at said central computer, said data records in accordance with said

monitored data to provide an augmented central database;

responsive to a request for information from said at least one user, identifying candidate

response information from said information sources at said central computer;

comparing contents of said augmented central database with said request and with said

candidate response information at said central computer; and

as a result of said identifying and said comparing, transmitting, to said remote program

code at said at least one remote terminal, data concerning one or more of said information

sources which contain information relevant to said request so as to progressively tailor

information retrieval results for said at least one user and provide said information retrieval

results to said at least one user.

2.   *(previously presented)* An information retrieval system for accumulation and

retrieval of data related to one or more information sources in a search space, said system

comprising:

remote program code at at least one remote terminal; said remote program code being

adapted for monitoring user activity of at least one user, for collecting monitored data related to

said user activity and to each of said information sources accessed by said at least one user, and

for transmitting said monitored data; and

a central computer having central program code receiving said monitored data

transmitted from said remote program code ; said central program code being adapted for

maintaining a central database of data records, for accessing information from said information

sources, and for comparing said data records with said information from said information

sources;

wherein said central program code supplements said data records in accordance with said

monitored data to provide an augmented central database,

said central computer identifying candidate response information from said information

sources in response to a request for information from said at least one user, comparing contents

of said augmented central database with said request and with said candidate response

information, and transmitting, to said remote program code at said at least one remote terminal,

data concerning one or more of said information sources which contain information relevant to

said request so as to progressively tailor information retrieval results for said at least one user

and provide said information retrieval results to said at least one user.

3.   *(Cancelled)*

4.   *(Cancelled)*

5.   *(Cancelled)*

6.   *(Cancelled)*

7.   *(previously presented)* A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said monitored

data comprises implicit data, including data selected from the group consisting of queries and

actions taken after receiving responses to said queries, said implicit data being added iteratively

to said central database to form said augmented central database so as to progressively tailor

information retrieval results for said at least one user based on said implicit data.

8.   *(previously presented)* A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said monitored

data comprises explicit data, including user input in response to one or more queries from said

central computer, said user input including data selected from the group consisting of user profile

information and user feedback concerning information retrieval results, said explicit data being

added iteratively to said central database to form said augmented central database so as to

progressively tailor information retrieval results for said at least one user based on said explicit data.

9. *(previously presented)* A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said monitored data further comprises explicit data, including user input in response to one or more queries from said central computer, said user input including data selected from the group consisting of user profile information and user feedback concerning information retrieval results, said explicit data being added iteratively to said central database to form said augmented central database so as to progressively tailor information retrieval results for said at least one user based on said implicit data and said explicit data.

10. *(previously presented)* A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said remote program code is adapted for monitoring user activity of a plurality of users at a respective plurality of remote terminals, for collecting said monitored data related to said user activity and to one of said information sources accessed by each of said plurality of remote terminals, and for transmitting said monitored data to said central program code;

said supplementing comprises supplementing said data records based on said user activity at said plurality of remote terminals to provide said augmented central database; and

said transmitting to said remote program code comprises progressively tailoring said information retrieval results for said at least one user based on said user activity at said plurality of remote terminals.

11. *(previously presented)* A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said monitored data includes a plurality of user profiles, and wherein said central computer groups contents of

said augmented central database based on said plurality of user profiles so as to tailor said

information retrieval results for said at least one user based on ones of said plurality of user

profiles most closely matching a user profile of said at least one user.

12.   (*Previously Presented*) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said

information retrieval results include an identity of at least one other user with whom said at least

one user then can communicate to obtain further information.

13.   (*previously presented*) A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said monitored

data comprises implicit data, including data selected from the group consisting of queries and

actions taken after receiving responses to said queries, said implicit data being added iteratively

to said central database to form said augmented central database so as to progressively tailor

information retrieval results for said at least one user based on said implicit data.

14.   (*previously presented*) A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said monitored

data comprises explicit data, including user input in response to one or more queries from said

central computer, said user input including data selected from the group consisting of user profile

information and user feedback concerning information retrieval results, said explicit data being

added iteratively to said central database to form said augmented central database so as to

progressively tailor information retrieval results for said at least one user based on said explicit

data.

15.   (*previously presented*) A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said monitored

data further comprises explicit data, including user input in response to one or more queries from

said central computer, said user input including data selected from the group consisting of user

profile information and user feedback concerning information retrieval results, said explicit data

being added iteratively to said central database to form said augmented central database so as to

progressively tailor information retrieval results for said at least one user based on said implicit

data and said explicit data.

16.   *(previously presented)* A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

said remote program code is adapted for monitoring user activity at a plurality of remote

terminals, for collecting said monitored data related to said user activity and to one of said

information sources accessed by each of said plurality of remote terminals, and for transmitting

said monitored data to said central program code;

said central program code supplements said data records based on user activity at said

plurality of remote terminals to provide said augmented central database; and

said central computer progressively tailors said information retrieval results for said at

least one user based on said network activity at said plurality of remote terminals.

17.   *(previously presented):*) A system as claimed in claim 16, wherein said

monitored data includes a plurality of user profiles, and wherein said central computer groups

contents of said augmented central database based on said plurality of user profiles so as to tailor

said information retrieval results for said at least one user based on ones of said plurality of user

profiles most closely matching a user profile of said at least one user.

18.   (*Previously Presented*) A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said information retrieval results include an identity of at least one other user with whom said at least one user then can communicate to obtain further information.

19.   (*Previously Presented*) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said search space comprises the Internet, and media programming comprising at least one of television programming and radio programming, so that said at least one user can access said media programming as a result of said information retrieval results.

20.   (*Previously Presented*) A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said search space comprises the Internet, and media programming comprising at least one of television programming and radio programming, so that said at least one user can access said media programming as a result of said information retrieval results.

21.   (*Currently Amended*) A method of retrieving information from one or more information sources in a search space, said method comprising:

providing central program code at a central computer; said central program code being adapted for maintaining a central database of data records, for accessing the information from said information sources, and for comparing said data records with said information from said information sources;

recognizing communication between said central program code and remote program code at each of a plurality of remote terminals; said remote program code being adapted for monitoring user activity of each of a plurality of users, for collecting monitored data related to

said information retrieval activity, and for transmitting said monitored data to said central

program code;

supplementing, at said central computer, said data records in accordance with said

monitored data to provide an augmented central database;

responsive to a request for information from at least one user, identifying candidate

response information from said information sources at said central computer;

comparing contents of said augmented central database with said request and with said

candidate response information at said central computer; and

as a result of said identifying and said comparing, transmitting, to said remote program

code at at least one of said plurality of remote terminals, data concerning one or more of said

information sources which contain information relevant to said request so as to progressively

tailor information retrieval results for at least one user and provide said information retrieval

results to said at least one user.

22.   *(previously presented)* An information retrieval system for accumulation and

retrieval of data related to one or more information sources in a search space, said system

comprising:

remote program code at each of a plurality of remote terminals; said remote program

code being adapted for monitoring user activity of a plurality of users, for collecting monitored

data related to said user activity and to each of said information sources accessed by said at least

one user, and for transmitting said monitored data; and

a central computer having central program code receiving said monitored data

transmitted from said remote program code; said central program code being adapted for

maintaining a central database of data records, for accessing information from said information

sources, and for comparing said data records with said information from said information

sources;

wherein said central program code supplements said data records in accordance with said

monitored data to provide an augmented central database,

said central computer identifying candidate response information from said information

sources in response to a request for information from said at least one user, comparing contents

of said augmented central database with said request and with said candidate response

information, and transmitting, to said remote program code at at least one of said plurality of

remote terminals, data concerning one or more of said information sources which contain

information relevant to said request so as to progressively tailor information retrieval results for

at least one user and provide said information retrieval results to said at least one user.